

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

EUR-12 OES-06 /037 W

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R 092145Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO CINCPAC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5619

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

FOSIF WESTPAC KAMI SEYA JA

NOSIC SUITLAND MD

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 1382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, UR, FJ

SUBJ: SOVIET VESSEL BASHIKIRIYA

REF: A. CINCPAC DTG 302041Z NOV 76

B. SUVA 1351

C. SUVA 1356

1. AMERICAN OCEANOGRAPHER AT USP INVITED ABOARD TWO SOVIET SHIPS RECENTLY IN PORT, THE TUNGUS AND NAVAL RESEARCH VESSEL BASHIKIRIYA. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT BASED ON OBSERVABLE EQUIPMENT, BOTH ARE DESIGNED FOR EXPLORATION OF FISHING GROUNDS. HE WAS SURPRISED, HOWEVER, WHEN CREW MEMBERS HE TALKED TO DID NOT SEEM INFORMED ABOUT LIVE BAIT POLE AND LINE FISHING TECHNIQUES, ALTHOUGH VESSEL RIGGED FOR THAT PARTICULAR FISHING METHOD.

2. ABOARD BASHIKIRIYA SOURCE HAD HALF HOUR CONVERSATION WITH CAPTAIN AND SEVERAL CREW MEMBERS. HE SAID CAPTAIN HAD BEEN INFORMED BY GOF THAT THE SHIP HAD FAILED TO FOLLOW APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL WHEN IT ENTERED PORT AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE CALLED ON A CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL RATHER THAN COMMANDER FIJI NAVAL SQUADRON. CONSEQUENTLY, ACCORDING TO THE CAPTAIN, HE WAS CAREFULLY LIMITING CONTACTS BETWEEN HIS CREW AND LOCALS, SO AS NOT TO PROVOKE ANY MORE DISPLEASURE.

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3. SOURCE SAID THAT THE SESSION WAS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR A QUESTION ABOUT AMERICAN RESEARCH VESSELS. HE WAS ASKED ABOUT LARGEST US SHIP, AND HE MENTIONED THE ATLANTIS II. WHEN HE WAS FURTHER ASKED "WHAT ABOUT THE CHALLENGER?" MARSHALL REPLIED HE HAD HEARD OF TWO GLOMAR SHIPS, AND THAT ONE OF THEM WAS DESIGNED TO LIFT CERTAIN SUBMARINES FROM THE OCEAN BOTTOM. THAT PROMPTLY ENDED THAT PART OF THE CONVERSATION.

4. OCEANOGRAPHER SAID THAT FROM THE EQUIPMENT HE SAW ON BOARD, THE SHIP WAS EQUIPED FOR HYDROGRAPHIC WORK, BUT THAT DURING THE VISIT , THERE WERE NO EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE SHIP AND THE LOCAL HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE.

5. I REQUESTED OF N-2 LAST SUMMER IDENTIFICATION MATERIAL ON SOVIET VESSELS. THIS HAS NOT YET ARRIVED AND WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE.  
FLANEGIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TUNGUS R/V, BASHIKIRIYA, NAVAL SHIPS, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, OCEAN EXPLORATION, FISHING GROUNDS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SUVA01382  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760457-0265  
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**Line Count:** 79  
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**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SUVA 1351, 76 SUVA 1356  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET VESSEL BASHIKIRIYA  
**TAGS:** PINR, FJ, US  
**To:** CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006